



**Office of the State Public Defender**  
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

**IDID Bulletin**  
**January 2024**

## Indigent Defense Updates

### Research Study on Electronic Monitoring and Youth

Elissa Buchman, a clinician psychology doctoral student at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, CA, is conducting important research for her dissertation regarding the use and impact of electronic monitoring on youth mental health and development.

**Seeking:** People who have experience working with or representing youth who have been on GPS / Electronic Monitoring. This virtual interview will take approximately 30-40 minutes, and participants will be offered \$40.

**Contact:** Elissa Buchman; ebuchman@wi.edu.

### John R. Justice Student Loan Forgiveness Program

The John R. Justice (JRJ) Grant Program is to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as local and state prosecutors and local, state, or federal public defenders.

**Eligibility:** California residents who are full time prosecutors or public defenders in the State of California, and who have qualifying federal student loans may apply.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

**New Committee on Revision of the Penal Code Report – [Available Here](#)**

## Career Opportunities Outside of OSPD

- Tuolumne County Deputy Public Defender I/II/III/IV  
[View Job Posting](#)
- Imperial County Deputy Public Defender IV  
[View Job Posting](#)

# January 2024 IDID Training Events

1/9

## **Overview of the Appellate Process for Trial Lawyers: What Happens to Your Case and Tips for Issue Preservation**

JENNIFER PEABODY, Staff Attorney, California Appellate Project Los Angeles

OLIVIA MEME, Staff Attorney, California Appellate Project Los Angeles

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Experienced appellate attorneys from the California Appellate Project in Los Angeles will give an overview of the appellate process and share recommendations about how to best preserve common trial issues for appellate review. Bring your questions for the Q and A.

\*1 hour of MCLE and LSCLE (Criminal Law) Credit is offered for this training\*

1/11

## **Working with Experts in Racial Justice Act Cases**

CATHERINE GROSSO, Professor, Michigan State University College of Law

KARINA ALVAREZ, Deputy Public Defender, Santa Clara Public Defender Office

JENNIFER FRIEDMAN, Deputy Federal Defender, Federal Public Defender

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

This panel, including a trial lawyer, a post-conviction lawyer, and an expert will discuss how to effectively work with experts, particularly experts who may not have a lot of experience with expert witness work or who have little experience with the Racial Justice Act. We will discuss how to identify the appropriate expert for the specific referral question, meetings with the experts, retainer agreements and court orders, communication with the expert, discovery issues, and working with the expert in their preparation of the report or declaration and preparing the expert to testify.

\*1 hour of MCLE and LSCLE (Criminal Law) Credit is offered for this training\*

1/18

## **RJA Claims in Juvenile Cases**

BRIAN MCCOMAS, Attorney, Law Office of B.C. McComas, LLP

LAURA RIDOLFI, Racial Justice and Well-Being Strategist, Haywood Burns Institute

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

We will be focusing on means of obtaining the discovery necessary to seek relief under the RJA. The seminar will cover how the RJA may be used from referral to disposition. We will provide various means for collecting public records information, including how to obtain leads on such information through the website for the Haywood Burns Institute. We will be providing templates of pleadings and discussing litigation strategies for preparing your RJA discovery motion. At the end, we hope all practitioners will feel comfortable exploring the HBI website and RJA issues in their cases, whether they involve truanancies, adjudications for serious felonies, or transfer motions.

\*1 hour of MCLE and LSCLE (Criminal Law) Credit is offered for this training\*

1/23

## **People v. Heard - An Interactive Conversation About Lessons Learned**

BESS STIFFLEMAN, Appellate Attorney, Los Angeles County

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Bess Stiffelman will share her brief insight from her successful Heard petitions and lead an interactive discussion between practitioners who are fighting for clients' freedom throughout the state. All will be invited to share lessons learned, both positive and negative in litigating Heard petitions and how they have dealt with various DA arguments.

\*1 hour of MCLE and LSCLE (Criminal Law) Credit is offered for this training\*

# January 2024 IDID Training Events

1/24

## Getting Your SVP Client Released

AMY HOFFMAN, Deputy Public Defender, San Diego County Public Defender

ALEX KNUDSON, Deputy Public Defender, San Diego County Public Defender

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Part of OSPD's fundamentals of SVP webinar series, this session will focus on getting your SVP client released. This series is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of defending against SVP civil commitments. This training will provide guidance on petitioning for your client's release when they have already been committed under the SVPA for an indeterminate term. Participants will learn the different standards and procedures for conditional release petitions pursuant to WIC6608 and unconditional release petitions pursuant to WIC6605. Participants will receive guidance on preparing for DSH annual reviews, retaining experts, treatment provider testimony and utilizing treatment records. Additionally, participants will learn about revocation hearings and preparing for Public Comment Hearings, including lack of community housing options, strategies victim rights groups are using to try and prevent clients from being released and motions for transient release.

\*1 hour of MCLE and LSCLE (Criminal Law) Credit is offered for this training\*

1/29

## Self-Care Isn't Selfish

TATIANA KLINE, Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

While working as a Public Defender can be extremely meaningful and rewarding, the work can also wear a defender down. Depression, anxiety, and substance abuse plague this line of work. Defenders put everything out there for their clients, but to the detriment of their own mental, emotional, and physical health. In this session participants will recognize that taking care of their own well-being is not a selfish act but is an indispensable part to their duty of competency. Additionally, participants will leave with practical tools to incorporate self-care into their daily lives.

\*1 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training\*

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# February 2024 IDID Training Events

2/1

## Effectively Communicating with People with Serious Mental Illness and CARE Court Participants

LAURI HALLMARK, Attorney

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

In this webinar, attendees will expand their understanding of the challenges faced by clients with serious mental illness including those likely to be respondents in CARE Court proceedings. This webinar will explore the ways these challenges may impact communication and representation. Attendees will also learn practical approaches for effectively communicating with clients with serious mental illness. These techniques will expand advocacy opportunities, providing attorneys with additional tools to maximize their ability to advocate on behalf of this client base.

\*1.25 hour of MCLE Credit is offered for this training\*

2/7

## Post-Sentencing Housing Opportunities & Barriers in collaboration with Homebase

BEILE LINDNER, Directing Attorney, Homebase

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM [Zoom Registration Link](#)

Once your client has a criminal record – regardless of whether it is arrest-only, probation, or time served – they face barriers to both subsidized and unsubsidized housing. In this webinar, we will discuss repercussions for people on the sex offender registry, obstacles to federal public housing and vouchers, and how to determine the eligibility criteria for various vouchers and programs. We will revisit the CoC and explain the process of Coordinated Entry, a system designed to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness with housing options, supportive services, and mainstream benefits.

\*1 hour of MCLE and LSCLE (Criminal Law) Credit is offered for this training\*

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# Other Training Opportunities

*\*Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD\**

4/22-  
4/26  
2024

## 2024 National Appellate Defender Training

Co-sponsored with Missouri State Public Defender, in Columbia Missouri

More information can be found at <https://www.nlada.org/ADT24>

The 2024 National Appellate Defender Training (ADT) offers an intensive four-day learning experience. ADT is designed specifically for attorneys who represent indigent defendants in criminal and delinquency appeals in the state and federal court systems. This national skills training brings together court and appellate public defenders at the state and federal levels, assigned counsel, contract defenders, and Criminal Justice Act private attorneys for a multi-day program.

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